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Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

Groups of countries in special situations: specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation

Letter dated 4 October 2005 from the Permanent Representatives of Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to forward to you the joint declaration on the "Kars-Akhalkalaki-Tbilisi-Baky new railway connection" project between the Republic of Turkey, Georgia and the Republic of Azerbaijan signed on 25 May 2005, in Baky, Azerbaijan (see annex).

We should be grateful if the present letter and its annex were to be distributed as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 46 and 55 (b).

(*Signed*) Yashar **Aliyev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Revaz **Adamia**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Baki **İlkin**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Turkey to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 4 October 2005 from the Permanent Representatives of Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and Russian]

Declaration on the "Kars-Akhalkalaki-Tbilisi-Baky new railway connection" project between the Republic of Turkey, Georgia and the Republic of Azerbaijan

The Republic of Azerbaijan, Georgia and the Republic of Turkey, further referred as "States",

Supporting the principles and objectives of the protocol signed between the Republic of Azerbaijan, Georgia and the Republic of Turkey, on 28 December 2004 in Tbilisi, and aimed to promote closer integration of these States into the European structures,

Emphasizing the importance of the establishment of the regional transport network for close cooperation in the field of trade-economic relations aimed at ensuring sustainable development and security within the South Caucasus region, as well as Eurasia as a whole,

Expressing mutual interest in the development of the Europe-Caucasus-Asia transport corridor for the improvement of the transport infrastructure within the Transport Corridor Europe-Caucasus-Asia (TRACECA) on the basis of the revival of the historic silk route,

Realizing that the new railway connection project being implemented in the context of the European neighbourhood policy is the key link of the East-West energy transport corridor, and along with the Baky-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline and the South Caucasian Baky-Tbilisi-Erzurum gas pipeline, will promote the economic growth, stability and welfare increase in the region,

Have agreed to:

Undertake the necessary measures for the realization of the new railway connection project, which will promote more efficient functioning of the environmentally sustainable, reliable and commercially viable transport corridor;

Follow-up dialogue on the participation of the European Commission in supporting the new railway connection project in the framework of the development of the Europe-Caucasus-Asia corridor, promoting integration with trans-European railway network;

Invite to participate in the realization of this project the regional and international institutions and structures, other countries, as well as investors interested in its promotion and financing;

Set up the Coordination Council and the relevant mechanisms for promotion and implementation of the project in close cooperation with international organizations, in particular the European Union and the TRACECA Intergovernmental Commission Permanent Secretariat;

Ensure the conclusion of an intergovernmental agreement on construction and exploitation of the new railway connection;

Done at Baky on 25 May 2005 in one original, in English and Russian, both texts being equally authentic.

(*Signed*) Ilham **Aliyev**
President of the Republic of Azerbaijan

(*Signed*) Mikheil **Saakashvili**
President of Georgia

(*Signed*) Ahmet **Necdet Sezer**
President of the Republic of Turkey